

REMARKS

Preliminary Matters

As a preliminary matter, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states:

The drawings filed on May 25, 2006 are acceptable for examination.

It is however, noted that in the present application fails to provide every feature of the invention specified in the claims for example **claim 1** is directed to “a service supply method, in which a customer receiving services and at least one of a plurality of suppliers ... steps of: prior to selecting a supplier, acquiring supplier information.... acquiring customer information... allowing the customer who desires the supply of said desired ... customer information:”, although drawing Fig. 1-5 suggests “customer information, supplier information acquiring within “management center”, it is not clear as to how “general practitioner, element 80”, “medical specialist” element 90 and relationship between “accounting means, database element 20 related to claims 1-9.

Therefore, each specific function must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s), A proposed drawing are required in reply to the Office Action. **No new matter should be entered.**

In response, Applicants submit that the medical specialist 90 of Fig. 1 can correspond to the claimed supplier, the general practitioner 80 can correspond to claimed customer, and that the management center 10 and network 10 (together) effectuate the customer and the supplier corresponding with each other based on the supplier information and the acquired customer information. These similar relationships are set forth in the exemplary embodiments of Figs. 2-5. Nevertheless, in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants submit the enclosed proposed drawing Fig. 6, which includes the various operations set forth in claim 1, for example. Also, Applicants amend the specification, as indicated herein, to reflect the addition of new Fig. 6. No new matter has been added.

Applicants believe that the Examiner's objections, as set forth on page 3 of the Office Action, are obviated.

Formal Matters

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Anderson et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0042023). Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Wilkinson et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0034615).

§101 Rejections - Claims 1-9

The Examiner rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 based on the reasons set forth on pages 4-6 of the present Office Action.

Applicants amend independent claims 1, 2, and 4, as indicated herein, for clarification purposes, and submit that an exemplary useful, concrete and tangible result of the claimed invention is that customers are efficiently provided with supplier information.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact us if the Examiner is not persuaded to withdraw this rejection.

§102(e) Rejections (Anderson) - Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9 are rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 7-11 of the present Office Action. Applicants traverse these rejections at least based on the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicants submit that Anderson does not disclose or suggest at least, "acquiring supplier information concerning at least a time when each of said

suppliers can supply said service via a network,” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner cites page 1, numbered paragraphs 11-12 of Anderson as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted feature. To the extent that Anderson even discusses time, the time period discussed in Anderson only relates to the time it takes for a potential supplier to indicate to a central computer that an ordered product is in stock. Nowhere, however, does Anderson disclose or suggest the specific feature of acquiring supplier information concerning at least a time when each of said suppliers can supply said service via a network. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that Anderson does not anticipate claim 1.

Applicants submit that independent claims 2 and 4 are patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 5, 7, and 9 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 4.

§103(a) Rejections (Anderson/Wilkinson) - Claims 3 and 6

Dependent claims 3 and 6 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1, 2, and 4. Wilkinson does not make up the deficiencies of Anderson.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/864,457

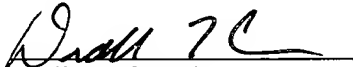
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q64695

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/864,457

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

New Fig. 6 is enclosed. No new matter is included in new Fig. 6.

Attachment: New Sheet